



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Naval Sea Systems Command

1333 ISAAC HULL AVE, SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, DC 20376

IN REPLY REFER TO

8020

Ser N712/O-12-007/1672

6 Oct 06

From: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command
To: Commander, Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center
(Code 40)

Subj: WEAPON SYSTEM EXPLOSIVES SAFETY REVIEW BOARD SAFETY
APPROVAL FOR A LIMITED RELEASE OF THE MK 14 MOD 1
ENHANCED BATTLE RIFLE WITH M14DC SOUND SUPPRESSOR

Ref: (a) NSWC Crane ltr 8370 Ser 4081DA/6193 of 2 Oct 06
(b) NAVSEA ltr 8020 Ser N712/O-12-006/1401 of 25 Aug 06
(c) DoDI 5000.2 of 12 May 03

1. Reference (a) requests safety approval for a limited release of the MK 14 Mod 1 Enhanced Battle Rifle (EBR), with associated M14DC sound suppressor, for use by Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (COMNAVSPECWARCOM) forces in continuing support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The MK 14 Mod 1 EBR incorporates alterations requested by Fleet operators, mostly ergonomic, and does not change the safety or reliability of the weapon. The M14DC sound suppressor requested in this limited release is considered an interim solution while the results of the MK 14 Mod 1 EBR suppressor User Assessment, provided via a safety concurrence by the Weapon System Explosives Safety Review Board (WSESRB) in reference (b), are evaluated.

2. Based upon the information provided in reference (a), the WSESRB concurs with the limited release of the MK 14 Mod 1 EBR with associated M14DC sound suppressor, to COMNAVSPECWARCOM personnel, with the following provisions:

a. This limited release safety approval extends from the date of this letter through 31 October 2007. Any extension of this date would require an additional WSESRB concurrence.

b. Weapons for this limited release are limited to 20 each MK 14 Mod 1 EBR's, Local Stock Number (LSN) 1005-LL-L99-7972, with the M14DC sound suppressors, LSN 1005-LL-L99-7965.

c. The ammunition to be used in this limited release is limited to military standard 7.62mm cartridges, Department of Defense Identification Code (DODIC) A130 (cartridge, caliber

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NATO, Ball, M80) and DODIC AA11 (cartridge, caliber 7.62mm, NATO, Special Ball, Long Range, M118).

d. These weapons and associated suppressors are to be fired only by qualified COMNAVSPECWARCOM personnel.

e. Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC Crane) shall provide an Operators Manual for the MK 14 Mod 1 EBR, and installation and usage instructions for the M14DC sound suppressor. These usage instructions shall include warnings and cautions, such as the non-interchange of suppressors, semi-auto use only of the MK 14 Mod 1 when the M14DC suppressor is attached, 160 shot sustained fire limit when the suppressor is attached, and standard usage and maintenance requirements and procedures.

f. Operators shall wear personal protective equipment, to include eye and hearing protection. Eye protection is especially critical during use of the M14DC sound suppressor due to the increased backblast from the chamber area during cycling.

g. All weapons and suppressors used during this limited release shall be returned to NSWC Crane upon completion of this release.

h. The appropriate level of authority must formally accept, in writing, the residual risk for Hazards 1 through 5, listed in the Preliminary Hazard Analysis for the limited release, provided in enclosure (3) of reference (a). The acceptance of risk, in writing, is required in accordance with reference (c), and should be kept on file at the accepting commands.

3. Any safety anomalies that may occur during the period of this safety approval for limited release shall be reported to the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity (NOSSA).

4. The NOSSA POC for the subject program is (b)(6)
(N712), (b)(6) commercial (b)(6) or email
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

By direction

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Copy to: (electronic)

CNO (N411, (b)(6)

NSWC Crane (Codes 405A/ (b)(6) 4081, (b)(6)

(b)(6)
COMNAVSPECWARCOM (N42, (b)(6)

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Blind Copy to:

NAVSEA (SEA 06/RDML(S)

(b)(6)